VLAB HEALTH COMMITTEE March 9, 2021

AGENDA

- 1. Updates from Members
- 2. Review of Status of 2020 Recommendations
- 3. Consideration of New Recommendations
- 4. Prioritization of Recommendations
- 5. New Business

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS COVID-19 AMONG LATINO POPULATION

HEALTH

- Create Latino-focused leadership team to guide and evaluate strategic COVID-19 mitigation for Latinos in Virginia
 - Guided by data: Local and statewide COVID-19 trends; hotspots
 - Coordinate effective outreach and communication: Messages, channels
 - <u>Assure utilization of resources</u>: effective coordination of/access to multisector resources to support mitigation
- Expand definition of Emergency Medicaid to include COVID-19 testing and treatment 46% of foreign-born Latinos are uninsured
- Eliminate 40-quarter work requirement for Medicaid eligibility by documented immigrants

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS COVID-19 AMONG LATINO POPULATION

HEALTH

- Request EO/legislation to assure that immigration status is no barrier to COVID-19 testing or treatment
- Legislation to grant Governor authority to purchase PPE during public health emergency, exempt from VA Public Procurement Act
- Strengthen <u>mental health services</u> by improving access to VA COPES warmline and providing mental health support services in schools

GENERAL HEALTH
RECOMMENDATIONS
to increase access to
healthcare

- Convene HHR workgroup to strengthen pipeline and practice opportunities of Latino healthcare professionals
- Expand access to prenatal care through Medicaid, regardless of documentation
- Increase number of community health workers and medical interpreters from/serving Latino communities
- Design a mobile health clinic program to reach Latino populations

Proposed Recommendations from J DeSilva

1. VLAB recommends that DBHDS create a workgroup to study utilization of DBHDS services by communities of color and to manage the impact of Executive Order 70 on Virginia state hospitals. This workgroup should include at least one Latinx member and should focus on impacts on minority communities from the Governor's executive order. (This recommendation could be edited or made into two separate recc's if we receive any further responses from Dep. Sec. Figueroa on this).

2. VLAB recommends that the Virginia Boards of Psychology, Social Work, and Counseling consider adopting a new regulation adding an annual diversity continuing education credit in the required credits required for license renewal.

3. VLAB recommends that the Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Officer develop an initiative in collaboration with the Virginia
Association of Clinical Psychologists, the Virginia Society of Clinical
Social Work, and the Virginia Counselors Association focused on
diversifying the mental health professions in Virginia. Data from the
Department of Health Professions should be used to establish
benchmarks for recruitment of mental health professionals of diverse
backgrounds.

Recommendations – Commonwealth Institute

- Raising age for legally residing youth eligible for Medicaid from 19 to 21 years of age
- Direct DMAS to study the needs of uninsured children
- Clarifying COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccination as Medicaid emergency service
- Expanding eligibility for prenatal care to Medicaid-eligible pregnant women, regardless of status